



SITUATION REPORT #113



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: October 5, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	Number
Confirmed Cases	941
Recovered	872
Deaths	5
2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	
Confirmed Cases	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Estimated Pending Tests Results	N/A
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	18,483
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	69
College Place	123
Dixie	6
Prescott	36
Touchet/Lowden	12
Waitsburg	1
Walla Walla	694
TOTAL	941



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	118
20-39	362
40-59	319
60-79	112
Over 80	30
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	418
Male	523
TOTAL	941

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 10/12/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



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1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-20209289852	9/28/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Awaiting Delivery
WA-20201059433	10/05/20	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Accepted by Logistics

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.



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- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of first delivery of masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate (36,000 masks). Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) 7/9/20 (400 vehicles), and 8/25/20. Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.
- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.



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- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG remain critical to local food bank operations.
- DCH received 36K cloth masks from GCACH (also received 24K KN95s) in August; giving them out at health fairs.
- Highest number of COVID patients at PSMMC since the beginning of the pandemic on 8/11/20, and yet the hospital wasn't overwhelmed.
- Health Fairs: Smith Frozen Foods (August 6), First Fruits (August 12), Tyson Fresh Meats (August 20), Valle Lindo Homes (August 27), Walla Walla River Packing (August 28), & Kiska Farms (September 1), education, masks, hand sanitizer and CDC fliers (Spanish and English) distributed with team from PSMMC & DCH.
- DCH agreement with Whitman College to use North Hall for isolation and quarantine extended until 10/31.
- DCH/Providence/FMC/WWC have aligned their response for population asking for medical note to not wear a mask (exception to required mask wearing); consistent info/guidance that they are not providing notes to patients.
- Community Roundtable discussions for school reopening planning (Cities of Walla Walla, College Place & Waitsburg); looking at effects on workplace, childcare, behavioral health held during the week of August 17 were well attended
- Department of Commerce Shelter Grant approved for the Sleep Center and purchase of a mobile unit to provide support around the county (2 or 3-year grant).
- 'Testing for Heroes' at PSMMC; employee and first responder antibody testing, initial figures show 60% participation by PSMMC employees.
- City of College Place door-to-door distribution of masks and disinfectant to businesses with the assistance of Chamber of Commerce.
- Slow trend downward in cases.
- Utilization of WNG for filling WEBEOC request for LTC weekly testing to comply with CMS guidelines.
- Work with Providence on future isolation & quarantine options.
- Whitman College success with students following mask wearing guidelines.
- [Veteran's Stand Down](#) on September 26th at VA Hospital.
- Whitman College extending agreement for use of North Hall for isolation and quarantine to the end of November.
- LTC facility that WWEM arranged WNG support for testing to meet CMS requirements report that LT Johnson has provided 'amazing support'; making contact, staying in touch nearly daily to assess needs, and provide ongoing support if/when they need it.
- DCH has seen positive feedback on Facebook to posting of Halloween guidance.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases—
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 941
 - ❖ Active: 67
 - Home Isolation: 66
 - Hospitalized: 1 – Walla Walla County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 5
 - ❖ Recovered: 869



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- Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above): 152 incarcerated (15 active) and 7 staff (1 active)
- Positivity Rate: 5.1%

- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Multiple concerns about school not reopening; daycare, work impacts, behavioral health.
- Challenges with return to in-person learning as school districts return to in-person at different rates.
- PSMMC is still looking for a Caregiver Health RN; Kadlec to help fill in.
- Getting vaccination drive-through's set up for winter.
- CMS updated guidance for visitation conflicts with Washington Safe Start; State is stricter.
- Halloween guidelines release – will be difficult to get the community to abide by.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- Reopening Business Workgroup:
 - Weekly Business Resource Town Hall
 - Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks
 - Masks and educational postcards are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors; postcards at the Walla Walla Regional Airport for arriving passengers (there are extra cards available for other businesses)
 - Cities of Walla Walla and College Place exploring options for winterizing/heating outdoor dining spaces
 - Salvation Army foodbank operations (information in food boxes), ongoing
 - Working on a Holiday Shopping Guide



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- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition –
 - Facilitating Weekly Regional COVID Updates (Tuesdays 3-3:30pm) for hospital, EM, EMS, and PH partners
 - Supporting the Crisis Standards of Care Regional Clinical Triage Team which is ready and waiting to activate if needed
 - Facilitating DMCC briefings (Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30am) to share situational awareness regarding patient placement
 - Running the Situational Awareness Response Process (Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am)
 - Running the REDi Resource Coordination Process
 - REDi Regional Response Plan trainings for partners
 - Working to assist LTC facilities with CNA staffing
- DCH providing weekly status report to public and private schools to assist them with opening reopening plans.
- Local COVID-19 vaccine planning continues as clinical trials move forward. Looking into availability of dry ice.
- Flu Roundup drive through flu immunization clinic on Saturday, October 24th, at PSMMC Southgate Campus. PSMMC planning to utilize 2nd year nursing students; potential for using nursing students to administer COVID-19 vaccine.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- DOH working on plans for an outside courier to transport COVID tests.
- WWEM working on order of KN95 masks for public schools.
- DCH is continuing to work with Providence on future isolation and quarantine options.
- State to deploy antigen test kits; tests are best for people with symptoms, will be part of overall state numbers.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based off of CMS requirements to test if positivity rate over 5%.
- PSMMC and Family Medical Center have changed their masking requirements; if patient arrives wearing a bandana or gaiter they will be asked to put on a mask.

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REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 10/14 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- October 5:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH distributed Halloween guidance to community partners
- DCH team completed a DOH survey on priorities and capacity for Flu and Covid Vaccine



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- DCH looking into an Ultracold Freezer for vaccine storage
- DCH attending Vaccine planning meetings with DOH
- DCH 'Health Space' training completed for health data management
- DCH, Emergency Management, and neighboring SE counties collaborative meeting with US Forest Service and DNR planning for safety during Wildfire season response relating to Covid-19
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH completed site visits to schools to assist in opening in hybrid learning models
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-4pm
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, October 6th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: www.cantwell.senate.gov
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>



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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office